

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/AU03/00281

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int. Cl. 7: A61N 1/378, H04R 25/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
WPAT, INTERNET: cochlear, implant, housing or casing, position or align or adjust.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6246911 B1 (SELIGMAN) 12 June 2001 See Figures 2a and 2b.	35-37
A	US 6178353 B1 (GRIFFITH et al.)	

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C

See patent family annex

* Special categories of cited documents:		
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention	
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone	
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art	
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family	
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search
11 April 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report
29 APR 2003

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Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of Boxes I to VIII is not sufficient)

Continuation of Box No: II:

This International Searching Authority has found that there are four groups of inventions, as indicated:

- (a) Independent claim 1 defines an implantable component of a cochlear implant system comprising a housing for a stimulator unit, a receiver antenna and an electrode assembly. The housing and/or the receiver antenna can be moved from a first implanted position to a second implanted position without the removal of the electrode assembly from the recipients' cochlear. Independent claim 2 defines an implantable component of a cochlear implant system comprising a housing for a stimulator unit, a receiver antenna and an electrode assembly. The housing is adjustable about a lateral axis despite implantation of the electrode assembly. Independent claim 18 defines a method of adjusting the position of an implanted cochlear device by rotating the housing about a lateral axis. Claims 3 to 17, 19 to 21 and 32 to 34 are dependent upon these claims..
- (b) Independent claim 22 defines an external component of a cochlear implant system comprising a support for mounting to the ear of the recipient and an external signal transmitter antenna which is movably mounted to a portion of the support. Claims 23 31 are dependent upon these claims. Claim 24 also refers to claims 1 or 2
- (c) Independent claim 35 defines an implantable component of a cochlear implant system as defined above, where the housing is substantially symmetrical about a longitudinal plane. In addition, claim 36 defines a housing, which is also symmetrical about a lateral plane. Independent claim 37 defines an implantable component of a cochlear implant system as defined above, where the housing is substantially symmetrical about a lateral plane.
- (d) Independent claim 38 defines a cochlear implant system capable of operating in a magnet and magnetless manner, where the implanted stimulator unit is implantable in a first or at least a second orientation. In the first orientation, the external transmitter is positioned distal from the external controller unit. In the second orientation, the transmission system is positioned proximal to the external controller unit.

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos :
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos :
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos :
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a)

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

See additional sheet.

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

- Remark on Protest**
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member			
US	6246911	AU	15493/99		
US	6178353	US	6071636	EP	884794
				FR	2764443
END OF ANNEX					